



# DRACUT

## Middlesex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Dracut is a suburban industrial center on the periphery of Lowell and southern New Hampshire. Originally, in 1653, the community was part of the Wamiset Praying Town, one of the preserves set aside by the colonists for Christianized Indians. The town has several large ponds, bogs and swamps and numerous brooks. Its early economy relied on fishing, lumbering and the milling of lumber, which led in turn to the 19th century industries of paper making and cotton textile manufacturing. These mills attracted Irish and French Canadian immigrants.

There has been intense modern development in Dracut, with suburban residential pressures from Lowell. Some rural landscapes survive intact along the state boundary as do some handsome historic houses. One of the better known is the 290 year old Coburn/Cutter House, with its massive beams, huge center chimney and fireplaces. The building, dating from about 1700, has served as the site of annual crafts fairs in Dracut.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



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# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Northeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Methuen and Andover on the east; Tewksbury and Lowell on the south; Tyngsborough on the west; and Pelham, New Hampshire, on the north. Dracut is 8 miles west of Lawrence, 27 miles north of Boston, 30 miles northeast of Fitchburg, and 230 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 21.36 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 20.90 sq. miles

**Population:** 25,594

**Density:** 1,225 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Lawrence Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....72.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....42.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lowell, Lawrence, Nashua South

## Regional Planning Agency

Northern Middlesex

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Lowell



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 452-1908

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1701

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	14,880		
Democrats	6,653	44.7	%
Republicans	1,643	11.0	%
Other parties	47	0.3	%
Unenrolled Voters	6,537	43.9	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Dracut town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	28,562	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	28,562	100.0
Male.....	14,007	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	443	1.6
Female.....	14,555	51.0	Mexican.....	32	0.1
Under 5 years.....	1,995	6.8	Puerto Rican.....	224	0.8
5 to 9 years.....	2,154	7.5	Cuban.....	12	-
10 to 14 years.....	2,045	7.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	175	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	1,784	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	28,119	98.4
20 to 24 years.....	1,447	5.1	White alone.....	26,864	94.1
25 to 34 years.....	4,347	15.2	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	5,215	18.3	Total population.....	28,562	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,021	14.1	In households.....	28,523	99.9
55 to 59 years.....	1,288	4.5	Householder.....	10,451	36.6
60 to 64 years.....	1,021	3.6	Spouse.....	6,094	21.3
65 to 74 years.....	1,852	6.5	Child.....	9,383	32.9
75 to 84 years.....	1,224	4.3	Own child under 18 years.....	6,730	23.6
85 years and over.....	229	0.8	Other relatives.....	1,476	5.2
Median age (years).....	36.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	441	1.5
18 years and over.....	21,271	74.5	Nonrelatives.....	1,119	3.9
Male.....	10,216	35.8	Unmarried partner.....	562	2.0
Female.....	11,055	38.7	In group quarters.....	39	0.1
21 years and over.....	20,380	71.4	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	3,913	13.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	39	0.1
65 years and over.....	3,306	11.6	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,343	4.7	Total households.....	10,451	100.0
Female.....	1,962	6.9	Family households (families).....	7,736	74.0
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	3,749	35.9
One race.....	28,288	99.0	Married-couple family.....	6,094	58.3
White.....	27,170	95.1	With own children under 18 years.....	2,943	28.2
Black or African American.....	222	0.8	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,208	11.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	27	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	620	5.9
Asian.....	737	2.6	Nonfamily households.....	2,715	26.0
Asian Indian.....	268	0.9	Householder living alone.....	2,185	20.9
Chinese.....	135	0.5	Householder 65 years and over.....	834	8.0
Filipino.....	15	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	4,069	38.8
Japanese.....	6	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,443	23.4
Korean.....	64	0.2	Average household size.....	2.73	(X)
Vietnamese.....	53	0.2	Average family size.....	3.19	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	196	0.7	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	9	-	Total housing units.....	10,643	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	4	-	Occupied housing units.....	10,451	98.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	192	1.8
Samoa.....	4	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	1	-	occasional use.....	46	0.4
Some other race.....	123	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	274	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.7	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	10,451	100.0
White.....	27,421	96.0	Owner-occupied housing units.....	8,201	78.5
Black or African American.....	284	1.0	Renter-occupied housing units.....	2,250	21.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	114	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.89	(X)
Asian.....	809	2.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.15	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	21	0.1			
Some other race.....	201	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	177
Conventional Federal:	44

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	6
Federal (Section 8):	64



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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The development of transportation resources in the Merrimack River Valley, where Dracut is situated, was shaped by the history of the region as a major site of American industrial development in the nineteenth century. The area has exceptionally good highway and rail facilities linking the major cities and towns to each other and to the port, airport, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 110 and 113 and Interstate Routes 95 and 495, the outer belt around Boston.

### Rail

Commuter rail service to North Station, Boston, is available from neighboring Lowell (travel time 45-49 min.; 680 MBTA parking spaces).

### Bus

Dracut is a member of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), which provides fixed bus service between Lowell and Dracut. Paratransit services for the elderly and handicapped are available primarily through the Council on Aging. But such services, including medical trips to Boston and special work trips for disabled residents, are also supplied by LRTA's Road Runner program.

### Other

The Tew-Mac Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 2,600'x 60' and 2,830'x 26'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Other nearby airports include the Lawrence Municipal Airport in North Andover and L.G. Hanscom Field in Bedford.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.